

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5825, ELECTRONIC SUR-
VEILLANCE MODERNIZATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question. This do-nothing Republican Congress plans to adjourn without taking action on the issues facing American families. It is outrageous that instead of addressing our national security and economic security, Republicans are focused on scoring cheap political points that benefit special interests, further divide this country, and put us at greater risk.

Families—not big oil companies—need relief from the economic squeeze most are facing. This year we see the cost of health care, energy and education going up while wages stagnate. Our economic growth depends on an investment in our future and on recognizing that hard working, middle class Americans are the engine of our economy. It is also outrageous that 5 years after the tragedy of September 11, Republican leadership has failed to make the necessary investment in Homeland Security, preferring instead to continue to provide unaffordable tax cuts to corporations.

Democrats have proposed 5 actions that this Congress can take that will make a real difference in the lives of families.

This Congress should not adjourn without increasing the minimum wage. Republicans voted to increase our pay by \$31,600 this year but have refused a pay raise for the 15 million hardworking Americans making the minimum wage.

We must allow the Federal Government to negotiate for best price for pharmaceutical drugs on behalf of American seniors, persons with disabilities and taxpayers. This will significantly lower the cost of drugs, providing for resources that we use to fill the doughnut hole and finally provide the comprehensive coverage our seniors have been fighting for.

In order to ensure our global competitiveness, Congress should reverse the raid on student aid by replacing the \$12 billion cut earlier this year to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest.

This summer gas was over \$3 dollars a gallon. And while we are feeling some relief now, clearly it is temporary. At the same time, oil and gas companies are enjoying record profits at the expense of the American taxpayer. It is time that this Congress insist on an energy plan that benefits families and decreases our dependence on foreign oil. Lets roll back tax breaks for Big Oil and invest those dollars in alternative fuels.

And to keep America safe, Republicans should stop blocking the full implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations and commit the resources necessary to secure our borders, ports, airports and chemical facilities. Instead of simply scaring Americans with talk of a terrorist attack, Democrats want to take real steps to keep American families safe.

Mr. Speaker, America needs a new direction. By voting against the previous question I am voting for initiatives that will promote economic growth and provide real security. I urge

my colleagues to reject the politics of cynicism and fear and to work together to move this country forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall 503, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act. Please let the record reflect that I enter an "aye" vote on this rollcall.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO
KELIIHOALANI MITCHELL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kelihoalani Mitchell of Aurora, CO. Ms. Mitchell has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Mitchell has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Kelihoalani Mitchell, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 403.

S. 403 makes it a Federal crime for anyone other than a young woman's parent to take her across State lines for an abortion unless the parental notification and involvement requirements of her home State have been met. In States without a current parental notification law, the Federal law applies. This legislation also requires a physician to notify, in person, the parents from another State about a medical procedure the doctor will be performing.

I will continue to work to do more to reduce abortion, but this is the wrong approach. Criminalizing health care providers and clergy while further victimizing young women who are already facing major challenges will not reduce abortions, will not reduce teen pregnancy, and will certainly not help to protect young women in this country. It is unfortunate that this legislation does not contain a judicial bypass process for young women who cannot, through no fault of their own, discuss this issue with their parents, as in cases of abuse or incest. This

bill even criminalizes a victim's support network, the grandparents, aunts and uncles, adult siblings, religious counselors, and other trusted adults whom a young woman might turn to for help in this time of crisis. It also requires doctors to know the notification laws in all 50 States or face criminal penalties. S. 403 undermines Minnesota's authority, forcing all States to comply with and enforce other States' laws.

This legislation is opposed by a wide variety of individuals and organizations including physicians, public health experts, women's organizations, religious groups, and think tanks. Simply put, S. 403 imposes significant barriers to young women's emotional and physical health. The reality is that marginalizing and isolating these vulnerable young women will not protect them in their time of need, but rather force them to seek risky and unsafe ways to terminate their pregnancy. Instead, we must do more to support families and to work to reduce unwanted pregnancies through comprehensive education, adoption assistance, and family planning.

Mr. Speaker, S. 403 is a dangerous bill, harmful to those young women most in need of help. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation, which poses a serious threat to young women's access to safe reproductive health choices.

THE R.S. 2477 RIGHTS-OF-WAY
RECOGNITION ACT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way Recognition Act." I am introducing this legislation to advance the dialogue on an issue very important to my constituents and many other stakeholders, particularly in the western United States.

R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way were originally granted by the 1866 Mining Law. However, in 1976 with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act or FLPMA, the R.S. 2477 statute was repealed while grandfathering in existing claims. Since the passage the FLPMA and its repeal of R.S. 2477, a long-standing dispute regarding these grandfathered claims has persisted with the validity of these rights-of-way remaining in doubt.

The purpose of my bill is to remove this cloud, once and for all, by declaring that State and local governments hold valid rights-of-way for all public roads that were documented on government maps and photographs at the time the FLPMA's grandfather clause was enacted.

Everyone must clearly understand the scope of this legislation. It does not establish new claims or to provide a method by which any party may to build roads or improvements on claims not valid under FLPMA. Instead, this legislation intends to reaffirm the rights and responsibilities of State and local governments to the rights-of-way that Congress intended they retain when passing FLPMA.

Thus, any attempt to construe this legislation as an endeavor to create a system of superhighways through public lands is just plain